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THE Copie of a Letter,

sent by an English Gentleman out of *France*, to a friend of his in *England*, concerning the great victorie which the French King obtained against the Duke de Maine, and the Romish rebels in his Kingdome, vpon the fourth daie of March last past.

1589.

Wherein is particularly expressed the names of sundrie noble men, with the number of horsemen & footmen which were drowned, slaine, hurt, and taken prisoners in the sayd Battaile.

LONDON
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1590.

THE COPY OF A LETter, ſent by an Engliſh Gentleman forth of France, to a friend of his in England, concerning the great victorie which the French King obtained againſt the Duke de Maine, and the Romiſh rebels in his Kingdom, vpon the fourth daie of March laſt paſt.

1589.

MY good Friend, the manifold curteſies by me ſundrie waies receiued at your handes, makes me not to bee vnmindfull of you, and the rather for that I finde you not ſlack to ſignifie vnto me from time to time, ſuch newes as Englande affordeth, I thought it good therefore to make requitall of ſome part of your paines by certefieng vnto you, the moſt happie and ioyfull newes now generally knowne for truth throughout the whole Realme of France. The circumſtance whereof at large deſerueth a ſtately ſtile, a large volume, and to be regeſtred in letters of golde, ſuch and ſo rare an euent the Almightie hath brought to paſſe, to the great comfort of the Kings Maieſtie (whome God preſerue and proſper) to the great benefit and ioy of all his dutifull and loiall ſubiects,

which now by the prouidence of God doth daily increase: and to the great discouragement of all the enemies to Christian religion, which to recorde or discourse by circumstance at large, I leaue to those of deepe skill and sufficient learning, to enroll amongst the noble actes of the most renowmed and valiauntest of our age. Onely to you I doe heare send a briefe particular of his Maiesties good fortune happened vpon the fourth daie of March last past. A matter containing so great certaintie, and yet so incredible (for that the enemie was three to one in the field) as doth make men wonder at the same, and hardly beleeue it. But there is nothing impossible to compasse or obtaine where God is the guide, nor nothing prospereth or preuaileth where Gods assistance wanteth, as I could proue by many examples: What power can preuaile to fight against Gods truth, then the which, nothing is of more force, as appeareth by that which ensueth.

It is not vnknowen vnto you by our last conference together at your lodging, where conferring with a Gentleman that had trauelled into France vpon the present state of that Countrie, he declared that then the state was verie dangerous, and the land was diuided into three seuerall factions, which is since altered into two, the one very lawfull, being vnder the conduct of the lawfull King: the other a greater and of more danger, for that they are Traitours to their King, stirred vp in the life time of the bloudthirstie Duke of Guize, who became the onely capitall enemie against Christian religion, and the professours thereof throughout all Christendom, as appeared by the great murther, massacre and slaughter of many thousandes by him and his associates stirred and committed at Paris in his life time vppon the professours of the reformed Religion: who as he liued, died: hee slaughtered innocentes, and bathed in their bloud, till other requited him with the lyke death.

After

After which, as in the right of the Guize for the rebellion to the Crowne and Kingdome of France, (who had no right at all thereunto) the Duke de Maine, a man supported and maintained by the Pope and all the Crowne enemies to the Gospell, was found by them the fittest champion in that Countrie, to rebell and rise up in armes against the King, being no loyall subiect, but a rebellious Traitor to the Crowne of France. For after the death of the French King, he tooke upon him the title of the King, and in most disloiall sorte repugned against the lawfull and Christian King Henrie of Navarre, now since proclaimed and reputed the lawfull successour to the crowne and kingdome. All which notwithstanding the Duke de Maine resisted his authoritie, by meanes of the great forces sent him by the Popish enemies, and to the entent to displace and depose him unlawfully, hath with his power sundry times set upon the Kinges Forces, and taken his chiefest Cities and walled Townes, and doeth withhold them unlawfully from the King, contrarie to the dutie of a naturall subiect, so that after many late battailes and skirmishes, one onely battaile was fought upon the fourth day of March aforesaid, where the enemy was thirtie thousand strong in the field, the King not having above ten thousand in all: besides there was newly come forth of the low Countries five thousand foote-men, and fourteene Cornets of horse-men, all which were taken, slaine, and put to the sword, fiveline hundred of the horses were drowned, and the rest taken by the Kings Souldiers. Before the Battaile began, for that the enemy was more then three to one, (the King then being in such a place where he must fight it out or die) tooke courage and comforted his Souldiers, shewing them that the cause was a iust cause, and did repose therefore his trust in God onely: in whose quarrell he fought, and he would defend him from the furie of his enemies, as he had sundry times before delivered him from the like dangers: willing his Souldiers not to be

daunted with the multitude which came towards them: for said hee, I will bee the formost, and will spende my deerest blood before any of you shall perish: which wordes did so encourage the Souldiers that they fell to it, and got to a fitte and faire peece of ground, being of great compasse, and kept that ground still and would not giue backe, whereby the enemy might haue any aduantage: who for want of ground to fight and stirre themselues, the multitude pestered one an other, so that their great multitude and want of rome was the greatest cause of their ouerthrowe, which the King perceiued, and encouraged his men to fight, who verie fiercely laide vpon the enemy, and broke their ranke and disordered their Battaile, whereupon the King to the great discomfort of the enemy, kept to the Standard bearer of the enemies Army, hee take away the Standard with his owne handes, and slue the bearer thereof, which did so encourage his Souldiers, that they fell to it so fiercely, as that they constrained the Duke to flie, when hee sawe his owne brother slaine before his face, and was almost taken in the flight. The King had the enemy in the Chase seuen Leagues, wherein there were a thousand men of name and account taken prisoners. The Countie Egmont was slaine in this Battaile, and Mounsieur de la Mount, was taken prisoner. Foure hundreth golden Chaines and more, were found in the rifling of the Waggons, and seuen hundred Chests of pillage taken by the King, besides the Dukes Casket, wherein was enclosed his chiefest Letters of priuitie. All the Switzers haue surrendred themselues to the subiection and obedience of the King: And the enemies chiefest field Peeces were taken.

Thus was the enemies Forces greatly weakened and scattered, so that it is very likely Parris, and the chiefest Townes and places now repugnant against him, will not long hold out, but yeeld themselues speedily to his Maiesties mercy. God be blessed, he hath wonderfully preserued this

godly

godly and christian Prince from danger, being still the most forwardest in the fight, and chased them almost eight houres togither. The God of heauen prosper him and all the fauourers of the Christian Religion, that they may beate downe such as seeke the confusion thereof, and giue his enemies grace to see their owne folly, and leaue their blind ignorance, that either their conuersion may be speedily seene, with repentance of their former follies, or els their destruction presently come vpon them, which God grant speedily, for his mercies sake, Amen. This 1st of March.

Your louing friend,

T. B.

Another letter the 6. of March.

THe kings Maiesty sent for the gouernour and the Nobility, and for prouision of powder to giue battail to the Duke de Maine. The Duke pressed vpon the King, by reason of his Wallons, being foure thousand foote and one thousand horse. The gouernour in the way met with two companyes of footemen and discomforted them: and tooke their Captayn prisoners to Font delarche, vpon his arriuall the King gaue battayl to the Duke, and put him to the worse. The Duke fled, most of the Burgonians were slaine, his ordinance lost: and foure thousand Switzers were retained by money and the seruice of the King. Mounsier Memory coueted his very valiantly, he was a little hurt in the head, the Count Egmont Conductor of the Spaniards and Wallons, was slain and their standard taken: the King was forced to the battayl by the Duke, and therefore could not refuse it. The Duke was moued thereto by the Popes legat, through discontentment growen among them of Paris, by reason of the charges they had

had beene put into by the Duke and no small time, and therefore grew to a consultation, whether better to yeeld to the King, or to those of the league: Sundry of the chiefest murmured at the motion of Sparre, which being observed, were the night following apprehended and committed to prison. This devision was the chiefe cause that the Leaguemades instaunce of battel, whereto the Duke was obedient. To conclude, the enemy was three to one, and yet God be praysed few on the Kings side were hurt: and the most part of the enemies were wounded, slayn, hurt, and taken prisoners in the battell.

The names of such chiefe persons as were slain and hurt on the enemies side.

Slaine.

The County Egwont. The Duke Brunswicke generall of the Reitters.

FINIS.